

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are pending in the application, as amended. Claims 1-22 have been amended and claim 23 has been cancelled. Claim 1 has been amended by deleting the description of the boss and adding language of original claim 11. Claims 2-4 are original claims 12-14, respectively, and now depend on claim 1. Claims 5-7 have been amended by reciting features of the elongate member and are supported in the specification at least at page 5, lines 39-40. Claims 8-12 have been amended by reciting features of the modular unit and are supported in the specification at least at page 6, lines 4-9. Claims 13-22 are original claims 1-10, respectively. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

Continuation

The Examiner has stated that this application appears to be a continuation but nothing in the specification or oath/declaration states as such. Applicants have stated that this application is a continuation of international application number PCT/AU01/01650 filed December 21, 2001 in numerous documents filed with the PTO including: (1) the Preliminary Amendment filed with the application on June 23, 2003; (2) the unexecuted declaration filed with the application on June 23, 2003; and (3) the executed declaration filed in response to the Notice of Missing Parts filed on September 22, 2003.

Formal Matter – Specification

The Examiner has pointed out two errors in the specification. Applicants have amended the specification as suggested by the Examiner.

Formal Matter – Drawings

The Examiner has suggested that Fig. 11 be labeled as “prior art.” Applicants have amended Fig. 11 as suggested by the Examiner. A replacement sheet with the suggested correction is attached.

Election Requirement

The Examiner has issued an election requirement stating that the application contains claims directed to the following three patentably distinct species of the claimed invention:

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Group 1 – Figs. 1-10; Group 2 – Figs. 12-20; and Group 3 – Figs. 21-25. Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 121, the Examiner has required the applicants to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.143, applicants hereby elect Group 2 – Figs. 12-20, without traverse. Claims 1-12 read on Figs. 12-20.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing Amendments and Remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application, including claims 1-22, is in condition for substantive consideration and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Amendments to the Drawings

Please replace Fig. 11 with the attached replacement sheet. No new matter has been added to the drawings by the Amendment.